centre-piece of a province-wide system of penitentiaries and asylums that, by 1859, was maintained by the `first ... board of public welfare in North America'.

After his retirement in 1875, Workman was president of the Canadian Medical Association (1877) and the first Canadian alienist to be made a member of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain. When he died in Toronto in 1894 he was one of his country's most famous doctors, and its most famous alienist. He is generally revered, at least by the staff, at the institution which succeeds his Asylum on Queen Street West, and where a theatre bears his name. His bust is in the lobby. He exemplifies the `first generation of would-be professionals who created that uneasy alliance with the state that has continued to both bedevil and reward professional life in Canada to this day'.[8]

It is not, therefore, Workman the doctor who principally interests me here, but Workman the author of his own considerable medical authority. While many nineteenth-century alienists are more famous than he is now, and many are more scientifically and medically important, I think none better illustrates the way a totally inexperienced man could virtually write himself into his profession. None better illustrates, too, the hazards of doing so when that profession is alienism.

Workman was uniquely qualified for the performance. Prior to his appointment to the superintendence of the P.L.A. he had been a medical official, a politician, and a professional journalist. As an editor of the Toronto Mirror in the 1840s he seems to have learned how to reinforce one kind of authority with another. For example, in an item of Friday, August 13, 1847, headed `Fever Hospital', the Editor indicates the insertion of an article by `Medicus', on the use of wine to treat the fever of recent immigrants. The Editor, almost certainly Workman himself, rather archly observes that `We by no means entertain the same view as Medicus in relation to the conduct of Doctor Workman on the Board of Health'. Workman the Doctor might not have the authority to tell other doctors what to do, but Workman the Editor would. Subsequently `Medicus' -- probably a `plant' -- praises Workman as `a Medical practitioner of acknowledged talents' while regretting that he, as a member of the Board of Health, suppresses his own opposition to the use of wine, in alleged compliance with the `conventionalities of society'.